

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

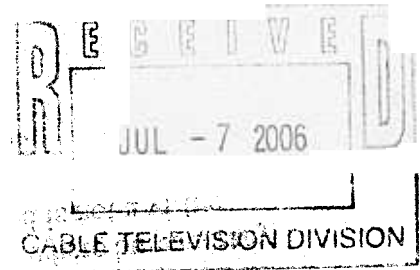
CLEON H. TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1ST BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
BREWSTER DENNIS YARMOUTH

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July 6, 2006

Andrea Nixon, Clerk
Cable Television Division
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110



Dear Clerk Nixon,

I am writing in opposition to Verizon's proposed revisions to regulations concerning cable television licensing regulations (207 CMR 3.00 et seq.: Licensing). Verizon's proposal is to shorten the negotiation and approval time for municipalities reviewing licenses to thirty days.

Towns with staff that may not be attuned to cablevision licensing issues need as much time as possible to negotiate, review and vote on such important issues. Many towns already find it necessary to hire consultants to assist in negotiations and review. Rushing complex negotiations and decision making is not in the best interest of the towns or consumers.

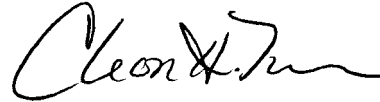
It has been brought to my attention that, in some instances, delays in the licensing process have been caused by Verizon's failure to respond to calls and questions from municipalities. If Verizon wishes to speed up the process, it should be more responsive to those communities it seeks licenses from.

Town leaders have a responsibility to fully vet the contracts in order to properly serve their constituencies. While I believe that there are a number of areas where bureaucracy should be shortened, there are instances such as this one, where speed is not a virtue.

I am strongly opposed to shortening the time as proposed by Verizon.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this or any other issue.

Thank you,



CLEON H. TURNER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1st Barnstable District

cc: Robert C. Lawton, Jr.: Administrator, Town of Yarmouth
Geoffrey Beckwith: Executive Director, Massachusetts Municipal Association